# TERRACE-STEPS AND PARAPETS,

## IN THE ANCIENT GARDEN OF GREAT CAMPDEN-HOUSE, KENSINGTON.

PERSPECTIVE VIEW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—It is rather singular that out of the very few remaining gardens of James the First's reign to be seen in England, one specimen is to be found so near London as Kensington. The above view will prove that what does remain on the spot is well worth inspecting; this view represents the steps leading from a shaded walk by the side of what was formerly the bowling-green, to a raised terrace, which communicates at one end with the curious long gallery of the building, while at the other are the remains of a summer-house. The terrace is of considerable length, about eleven feet wide, and raised five feet six inches above the general level of the ground. It is situate in the old garden of Campden House, Kensington, built about the year 1612, by Sir Baptist Hickes, the eminent mercer.

The interior of the house is extremely curious, many of the rooms being lined with richly-carved woodwork, and nearly all the ceilings are ornamented. The arms of Sir Baptist Hickes with those of his sons-in-law, Edward Lord Noel and Sir Charles Morrison, are in the large bay-windows in front of the mansion. Numerous celebrated individuals have lived and died in the house, which is one of the most interesting of the period to be found in the neighbourhood of London.

In 1691 it was hired of the Noel family by Queen Anne, then Princess of Denmark, who resided there about five years with her son the Duke of Gloucester. In 1705 the mansion was in the occupation of the Countess Dowager of Burlington, and her son, the earl, who proved afterwards a very accomplised nobleman, and a great patron of the fine arts. Some years afterwards Campden-house was sold to Nicholas Lechmere, an eminent lawyer, who became attorney-general, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and ultimately, in 1721, a peer of the realm.*

A few years ago, the front of the building was much altered, the balustrades in the upper part were removed, and the front covered with stucco. Lysons gives an elevation of it as it appeared in its original state. It is now occupied by Mrs. Teed, and is one of the largest boarding-schools for young ladies in England. I was very kindly permitted to make sketches there about six years since.

The small details I have added will explain better than any description the very ingenious design of the balustrade, and the effect of the whole is, as may be supposed, extremely good.

I am, Sir, &c.,

C. J. RICHARDSON.

22, Brompton Crescent.

* During Lord Lechmere's residence at Campden House, a most serious quarrel took place between his lordship and Sir John Guise, whereupon Swift wrote his ballad, entitled "Duke upon Duke," from which the following is extracted:—

"Back in the dark, by Brompton-park,
He turned up thro' the trore,
So slunk to Campden House so high,
All in his coach and four.
The Duke in wrath called for his steeds,
And fiercely drove them on:
Lord! Lord! how rattled then thy stones,
O! kingly Kensington."

*Swift's Works* (Edit. 1762), Vol. IV., p. 106.